

Abstract

Purpose

To establish a method for controlling a bright annealing furnace for reducing the generation of white powder therein.

Means

A steam partial pressure of an internal environment within a bright annealing furnace generating a boron oxide is reduced to less than 1×10^{-5} by lowering a dew point of the internal furnace environment. The dew point of the heating environment within the bright annealing furnace is lowered by introducing a gas having a hydrocarbon component, or a chemical compound having a carbon component, into the furnace.